

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 588

To amend the National Trails System Act to create a new category of long-distance trails to be known as national discovery trails, to authorize the American Discovery Trail as the first trail in that category, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 5, 1997

Mr. BEREUTER (for himself, Mr. CASTLE, Mr. COSTELLO, Mrs. KELLY, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. HAMILTON, Mr. PICKETT, Mr. MCINTOSH, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. EVANS, Mr. DAN SCHAEFER of Colorado, Mr. HEFLEY, Mr. FROST, Mr. MOLLOHAN, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, Mr. MILLER of California, Ms. NORTON, Mr. SKAGGS, Mr. POSHARD, Mr. FAZIO of California, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. STARK, Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. VENTO, Mr. EHLERS, Mr. WELLER, Mr. BOEHLERT, Mr. FAWELL, Mr. LEACH, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Ms. PELOSI, Mrs. MORELLA, Mr. RAHALL, and Mr. HINCHEY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Resources

A BILL

To amend the National Trails System Act to create a new category of long-distance trails to be known as national discovery trails, to authorize the American Discovery Trail as the first trail in that category, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “National Discovery
3 Trails Act of 1997”.

4 **SEC. 2. NATIONAL TRAILS SYSTEM ACT AMENDMENTS.**

5 (a) NATIONAL DISCOVERY TRAILS ESTABLISHED.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 3(a) of the National
7 Trails System Act (16 U.S.C. 1242(a)) is amended
8 by inserting after paragraph (4) the following:

9 “(5) National discovery trails, established as
10 provided in section 5, which will be extended, contin-
11 uous, interstate trails so located as to provide for
12 outstanding outdoor recreation and travel and to
13 connect representative examples of America’s trails
14 and communities. National discovery trails should
15 provide for the conservation and enjoyment of sig-
16 nificant natural, cultural, and historic resources as-
17 sociated with each trail and should be so located as
18 to represent metropolitan, urban, rural, and
19 backcountry regions of the Nation.”.

20 (2) FEASIBILITY REQUIREMENTS; COOPERATIVE
21 MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENT.—Section 5 of such
22 Act (16 U.S.C. 1244) is amended by adding at the
23 end the following new subsection:

24 “(g)(1) For purposes of subsection (b), a trail shall
25 not be considered feasible and desirable for designation

1 as a national discovery trail unless it meets all of the fol-
2 lowing criteria:

3 “(A) The trail must link to one or more areas
4 within the boundaries of a metropolitan area (as
5 those boundaries are determined under section
6 134(c) of title 23, United States Code). It should
7 also join with other trails, tying the National Trails
8 System to significant recreation and resources areas.

9 “(B) It must be supported by a competent
10 trailwide nonprofit organization. Each trail should
11 have extensive local and trailwide support by the
12 public, by user groups, and by affected State and
13 local governments.

14 “(C) It must be extended and pass through
15 more than one State. At a minimum, it should be a
16 continuous, walkable route.

17 “(2) The appropriate Secretary for each national dis-
18 covery trail shall administer the trail in cooperation with
19 a competent trailwide nonprofit organization.”.

20 (b) DESIGNATION OF THE AMERICAN DISCOVERY
21 TRAIL AS A NATIONAL DISCOVERY TRAIL.—Section 5(a)
22 of such Act (16 U.S.C. 1244(a)) is amended—

23 (1) by redesignating the paragraph relating to
24 the California National Historic Trail as paragraph
25 (18);

1 (2) by redesignating the paragraph relating to
2 the Pony Express National Historic Trail as para-
3 graph (19); and

4 (3) by adding at the end the following:

5 “(20) The American Discovery Trail, a trail of
6 approximately 6,000 miles extending from Cape
7 Henlopen State Park in Delaware to Point Reyes
8 National Seashore in California, extending westward
9 through Delaware, Maryland, the District of Colum-
10 bia, West Virginia, Ohio, and Kentucky, where near
11 Cincinnati it splits into two routes. The Northern
12 Midwest route traverses Ohio, Indiana, Illinois,
13 Iowa, Nebraska, and Colorado, and the Southern
14 Midwest route traverses Indiana, Illinois, Missouri,
15 Kansas, and Colorado. After the two routes rejoin in
16 Denver, Colorado, the route continues through Colo-
17 rado, Utah, Nevada, and California. The trail is gen-
18 erally described in Volume 2 of the National Park
19 Service feasibility study dated June 1995 which
20 shall be on file and available for public inspection in
21 the office of the Director of the National Park Serv-
22 ice, Department of the Interior, the District of
23 Columbia. The American Discovery Trail shall be

1 administered by the Secretary of the Interior in co-
2 operation with a competent trailwide nonprofit orga-
3 nization and other affected land managing agencies.
4 No lands or interests outside the exterior boundaries
5 of federally administered areas may be acquired by
6 the Federal Government solely for the American
7 Discovery Trail. This trail is specifically exempted
8 from the provisions of sections 7(e), 7(f), and 7(g).”.

9 (c) COMPREHENSIVE NATIONAL DISCOVERY TRAIL
10 PLAN.—Section 5 of such Act (16 U.S.C. 1244) is further
11 amended by adding at the end the following new sub-
12 section:

13 “(h) Within three complete fiscal years after the date
14 of enactment of any law designating a national discovery
15 trail, the administering Federal agency shall enter into ar-
16 rangements with a competent trailwide nonprofit organi-
17 zation to submit a comprehensive plan for the protection,
18 management, development, and use of the trail, to the
19 Committee on Resources of the United States House of
20 Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natu-
21 ral Resources of the United States Senate. The Secretary
22 shall ensure that the comprehensive plan does not conflict
23 with any existing agency direction and that the nonprofit
24 organization consults with affected land managing agen-
25 cies, the Governors of the affected States, county and local

1 political jurisdictions, and local organizations maintaining
2 components of the trail. Mandatory components of the
3 comprehensive plan include—

4 “(1) specific objectives and practices to be ob-
5 served in the administration and management of the
6 trail, including the identification of all significant
7 natural, historical, and cultural resources to be pre-
8 served, model agreements necessary for joint trail
9 administration among and between interested par-
10 ties, and an identified carrying capacity of the trail
11 and a plan for its implementation;

12 “(2) a trail protection plan to preserve the val-
13 ues for which the trail is being established and rec-
14 ognized by the Federal Government;

15 “(3) general and site-specific development plans
16 including anticipated costs; and

17 “(4) the process to be followed by the nonprofit
18 organization, in cooperation with the appropriate
19 Secretary, to implement the trail marking authori-
20 ties in section 7(c) conforming to approved trail logo
21 or emblem requirements.”.

22 **SEC. 3. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**

23 The National Trails System Act is amended—

1 (1) in section 2(b) (16 U.S.C. 1241(b)), by
2 striking “scenic and historic” and inserting “scenic,
3 historic, and discovery”;

4 (2) in the section heading to section 5 (16
5 U.S.C. 1244), by striking “**AND NATIONAL HIS-**
6 **TORIC**” and inserting “**, NATIONAL HISTORIC,**
7 **AND NATIONAL DISCOVERY**”;

8 (3) in section 5(a) (16 U.S.C. 1244(a)), in the
9 matter preceding paragraph (1)—

10 (A) by striking “and national historic” and
11 inserting “, national historic, and national dis-
12 covery”; and

13 (B) by striking “and National Historic”
14 and inserting “, National Historic, and Na-
15 tional Discovery”;

16 (4) in section 5(b) (16 U.S.C. 1244(b)), in the
17 matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “or na-
18 tional historic” and inserting “, national historic, or
19 national discovery”;

20 (5) in section 5(b)(3) (16 U.S.C. 1244(b)(3)),
21 by striking “or national historic” and inserting
22 “, national historic, or national discovery”;

23 (6) in section 7(a)(2) (16 U.S.C. 1246(a)(2)),
24 by striking “and national historic” and inserting
25 “, national historic, and national discovery”;

1 (7) in section 7(b) (16 U.S.C. 1246(b)), by
2 striking “or national historic” each place such term
3 appears and inserting “, national historic, or na-
4 tional discovery”;

5 (8) in section 7(c) (16 U.S.C. 1246(c))—

6 (A) by striking “scenic or national his-
7 toric” each place it appears and inserting “sce-
8 nic, national historic, or national discovery”;

9 (B) in the second proviso, by striking “sce-
10 nic, or national historic” and inserting “scenic,
11 national historic, or national discovery”; and

12 (C) by striking “, and national historic”
13 and inserting “, national historic, and national
14 discovery”;

15 (9) in section 7(d) (16 U.S.C. 1246(d)), by
16 striking “or national historic” and inserting “na-
17 tional historic, or national discovery”;

18 (10) in section 7(e) (16 U.S.C. 1246(e)), by
19 striking “or national historic” each place such term
20 appears and inserting “, national historic, or na-
21 tional discovery”;

22 (11) in section 7(f)(2) (16 U.S.C. 1246(f)(2)),
23 by striking “National Scenic or Historic” and insert-
24 ing “national scenic, historic, or discovery trail”;

1 (12) in section 7(h)(1) (16 U.S.C. 1246(h)(1)),
2 by striking “or national historic” and inserting “na-
3 tional historic, or national discovery”; and
4 (13) in section 7(i) (16 U.S.C. 1246(i)), by
5 striking “or national historic” and inserting “na-
6 tional historic, or national discovery”.

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